

## REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 18-26, 28-29 and 31-42 are pending in this application, stand rejected, and are at issue herein. Reconsideration and an indication of the allowance thereof are respectfully solicited.

*Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-8, 18-26, 28-29 and 31-42 - Smith in view of Clapp and Bar*

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 18-26, 28-29 and 31-42 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,128,649 (hereinafter "Smith") in view of Clapp et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,802,281 (hereinafter "Clapp") and in further view of Bar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,122,665 (hereinafter "Bar"). The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection based on the arguments and remarks presented below.

On February 13, 2003, Applicants filed a Supplemental Submission under Rule 37 CFR 1.114 pursuant to Examiner interviews and discussions concerning the Bar reference. The Supplemental Submission included declarations under 37 CFR 1.131 to swear behind Bar. In the interest of efficiency and to avoid piecemeal examination, Applicants, for purpose of the arguments presented herein will assume that the Supplemental Submission is in proper form.

Each of the independent claims 1, 18, 21, 24, 25, 26, 29 and 32 have been rejected using the Bar reference at least in part. Because the Bar reference is required to support a 35 USC § 103(a) obviousness type rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn based on the swearing behind of the Bar reference.

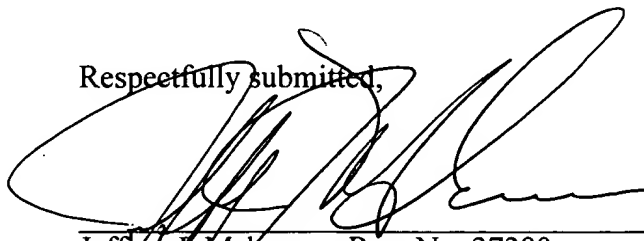
Each of the dependent claims is allowable with the associated independent claim. Specifically, claims 2-8, 35 and 37 depend from claim 1. Claims 19-20 depend from claim 18. Claims 22-23 and 38 depend from claim 21. Claims 36 and 39 depend from claim 24. Claim 40 depends from claim 25. Claims 27-28 and 41 depend from claim 26, claim 31 depends from claim 29 and claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 32.

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**Conclusion**

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jeffrey J. Makeever, is written over the signature line.

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Date: May 7, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:

May 7, 2003

Tauna M. Billups

